Farakka National Highway (via Sultanpur, Johnpur, Gazipur, Buxar, Areah, Patna, Monghyr, Bhagalpur and Shibganj) in the master plan of the Eighth Plan;

(d) if so, whether the government propose to give financial asssistance for the construction of a bridge on he river Ganga in Monghyr under iner-state and economic importance programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Constitutionally, the Government of India are primarily concerned only with roads declared as National Highways. The policy of the Government with regard to construction of bridges on the river Ganga from Haridwar to Bay of Bengal is that high level bridges will be provided at all points were National Highways cross the river Ganga.

(b) The total number of bridges on National Highways across the river Ganga constructed by the Central Government so far is six.

(c) Sultanpur-Jaunpur road is already forming part of NH 56. No other decision regarding declaration of any road as a National Highway has been taken pending finalisation of the Eighth Plan.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Export of Rubber Footwear

2900. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great scope to increase the export of rubber footwears;

(b) if so, the strategies adopted therefor; and

(c) the target fixed for export of rubber footwears during Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. Good scope exists to increase export of rubber footwears to various countries including West Europe and U.S.A.

The Government has allowed import of sophisticated plant and equipment at concessional rate of customs duty for the industry to modernise their production base and upgrade their technology for manufacture of modern rubber footwear as per specifications and demands in the overseas markets, particularly, in West Europe and U.S.A. Manufacture-exporeers of rubber footwears/ sportshoes can avail themselves of he benefi of DEEC Scheme under the current IMPEX Policy for supply for raw materials and components.

(c) No specific export target has been fixed for rubber footwear during the Eighth five Year Plan.

Propellent Factory in Warrangal

2901. SHRI DHARMABIKSHAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the govement propose to establish a propellent factory in Warrangal district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Govemment so far in this regard; and

(c) he estimated cost and expected production of the factory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.